

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 02724 221836Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-03
OMB-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 ICA-11 /062 W
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7475
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2724

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, GY
SUBJECT: TOP GUYANESE SUGAR OFFICIAL CRITICIZES US MOVES TO IMPOSE
FEES AND QUOTAS ON SUGAR IMPORTS

IN A FRONT PAGE STORY PUBLISHED AUGUST 18 IN THE GOVERNMENT OWNED "GUYANA CHRONICLE", HAROLD DAVIS, CHAIRMAN OF GUYSUCO, THE STATE SUGAR CORPORATION, CRITICIZED A RECENT BILL VOTED BY THE "HOUSE TRADE SUB-COMMITTEE" AS A "BITTER PILL" NOT ONLY FOR GUYANA BUT FOR "ALL COUNTRIES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP WHO HAVE BEEN HURT BY PREVIOUS ACTION OF THE US GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO IMPORTS OF SUGAR TO THAT COUNTRY". THE ARTICLE STATED THAT DAVIS AGREED WITH TRINIDAD'S GORDON MAINGOT, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CARONI LTD., THAT IF THE LEGISLATION IS ENACTED SUGAR PRICES WOULD FALL.

COMMENT: DAVIS' REMARKS APPEAR TO BE AIMED AT ATTRIBUTING THE CURRENT PROBLEMS BEING EXPERIENCED BY GUYANA'S SUGAR INDUSTRY TO US PROTECTIONIST MEASURES. THE "CHRONICLE" HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL SHORT ARTICLES POINTING OUT THAT BECAUSE IT COSTS 12.5 US CENTS TO PRODUCE ONE POUND OF SUGAR IN GUYANA, GUYSUCO IS LOSING 5.5 US CENTS FOR EVERY POUND SOLD IN THE WORLD MARKET. IN 1977, THE COMPANY SUFFERED A US\$5.9 MILLION, LARGELY BECAUSE OF PRODUCTION SHORTFALLS RESULTING LFROM
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THE 135 DAY STRIKE CALLED DURING THE SECOND CROP. RECENTLY THE GOG ANNOUNCED AN INCREASE IN THE LOCA PRICE OF SUGAR TO REDUCE THE COMPANY'S US\$6.6 MILLION INDIRECT CONSUMER SUBSIDY.
DWYER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORTS, CUSTOMS DUTIES, SUGAR, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, IMPORT QUOTAS, TRADE CONTROLS
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Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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